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NAWAZ SHARIF BACK IN PAKISTAN AFTER FOUR YEARS OF EXILE IN U.K.

The former Pakistan PM touched down in Islamabad on Saturday afternoon and proceeded to Lahore after completing legal formalities

SAYS PAK MUST STOP FIGHTING WITH NEIGHBOURS

Sharif was welcomed by his brother Shehbaz Sharif and daughter Maryam in Lahore, where he addressed a massive rally at Minar-e-Pakistan. "The love I am seeing in your eyes, I am proud of it," he told supporters. He said that for Pakistan to progress, it must create good relations with other countries even on the Kashmir issue. "We cannot progress by fighting neighbours," he said

RUMOURS OF A DEAL WITH MILITARY

■ Though it was earlier reported that Nawaz will surrender on the day after his return, analysts say he has likely brokered a deal with the military. Last week, a court granted him protective bail
■ The bail will prevent authorities from arresting him until Tuesday when he is expected to appear before the Islamabad High Court | P12

73-yr-old

PML-N LEADER FLEW INTO ISLAMABAD FROM DUBAI ON A SPECIAL PLANE

US, UK on the Canadian page over recall of 41 diplomats

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

A day after Canada announced it had taken back 41 of its diplomats following India's demand for diplomatic parity, the US and the UK echoed the Ottawa line and shared their displeasure.

"We are concerned by the departure of Canadian diplomats from India, in response to the Indian governments demand of Canada to significantly reduce its diplomatic presence in India," said the US State Department.

Shortly thereafter, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said in a statement, "Resolving differences requires communication and diplomats in respective Capitals. We do not agree with the Indian government's decision that have resulted in a number of Canadian diplomats departing India."

The US, UK and Australia are part of Five Eyes intelligence sharing alliance, which includes Canada.

Canadian foreign minister Melanie Joly on Friday had said October 20 was the Indian deadline for taking back 41 'excess' diplomats, failing which they would lose immunity. She went on to accuse India of violating the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In its pushback, India said its actions were fully consistent with the Vienna treaty.

India and Canada are in the midst of a huge diplomatic stand-off after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of murdering Khalistani radical Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June on their soil. India denied any involvement in Nijjar's killing and sought evidence to establish Canada's claim.

The US and UK have reiterated their call for India to co-operate in the investigation. As for Australia, its Security Intelligence Organisation director general Mike Burgess said in California he has no reason to dispute Canada's claims of a possible link between the Indian government and the killing of Nijjar.

EXPRESS READ

'Change in govt' talks: DKS issues gag order

Bengaluru: With state Congress leaders taking liberty in issuing statements about the change in the government after two-and-a-half years, DyCM chief DK Shivakumar issued a gag order on all leaders on Saturday. | P4

NE monsoon sets in over TN, Kerala

Chennai: The northeast monsoon has commenced over TN, Kerala and Puducherry. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into Arabian Sea till Oct 25 and Bay of Bengal till Oct 26. | P5

DA up 3.75% for state staffers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government on Saturday increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) for its employees and pensioners from 35% to 38.75% with effect from July 1.

The hike is also applicable to pensioners/family pensioners as well as pensioners/family pensioners of aided educational institutions.

It applies to full-time government employees, ZP employees, work-charged employees on



Trucks of Egyptian Red Crescent carrying humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip cross the Rafah border in Egypt on Saturday | A9

Aid finally make its way into Gaza, 20 trucks let in

Test for its distribution without allowing Hamas benefit, says Biden

AGENCIES

THE first batch of trucks carrying international aid rolled into Gaza from the Egyptian border crossing on Saturday, but they were just a trickle for the desperate Palestinian nationals sealed off by Israel following Hamas' horrific attack two weeks ago.

Just 20 trucks were allowed as compared to at least 100 daily sought by UN officials to address the crisis. The Rafah border crossing was closed after the trucks entered Gaza.

Over 200 fully loaded trucks with about 3,000 tonnes of aid have been already parked on the Egyptian side of Rafah, waiting to enter Gaza.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated his call

WATER, MEDICINES

The aid trucks brought in 44,000 bottles of drinking water, medical supplies for 3 lakh people for three months, trauma medicine and supplies for 1,200 people, and 235 portable trauma bags for first responders

for a humanitarian ceasefire to end what he termed as a godawful nightmare. He also said the 'reprehensible assault' on Israel by Hamas 'can never justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.'

The US, which was part of the talks to let aid into Gaza, urged all parties to keep the Rafah crossing open. US President Joe Biden said the first 20

trucks would test the system for distributing aid through the UN without letting Hamas draw any benefit. If Hamas 'doesn't let it get through or just confiscates it, then it's going to end,' he warned.

The number of confirmed hostages held by Hamas rose to 210 though two of them — an ailing US national and her daughter — were released in Egypt late on Friday night. It was not clear if the aid was tied to the release of hostages.

In West Bank there were reports of widespread Israeli raids to hunt down for a senior Hamas leader, Saleh al-Aruri. His relatives were detained. Aruri is the deputy to Hamas' overall leader Ismail Haniyeh and a founder of the Islamist group's military wing. | P12

NCERT's mythology link to Chandrayaan-3 draws scientific flak

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE National Council for Education Research & Training (NCERT) has found itself in a controversy, yet again.

It has introduced reading modules for middle-school students on India's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission and its successful landing near the Moon's the South Pole. While the module, 'Chandrayaan Utsav', aims at creating awareness among the students, it has mixed science with mythology. This has irked many in the scientific community which is demanding the module's withdrawal.

The module was released by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on October 17 in New Delhi in the presence of ISRO Chairman S Somanath.

The introduction to the 17-page module reads, "Did this scientific achievement happen only now? Didn't it happen in the past? Didn't people in the past think about this? Literature tells us that it can be traced back through Vyaanika Shashtra: 'Science of Aeronautics', which re-

veals that our country had the knowledge of flying vehicles in those days."

It then goes on to put on a pedestal "mind-boggling details of construction, working of engines and the gyroscopic systems" from ancient Indian mythology.

Research by the Aeronautical Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) revealed that the book, Vyaanika Shashtra, was written by Sanskrit scholar Subbaraya Shastri in 1923. "The (IISc) research proved that it was not possible for those planes to fly according to the laws of aerodynamics and Newton's laws of motion. Any plane manufactured based on these ideas would surely have met with a horrible accident. And these are just the fanciful ideas of the author," Dipti B, State Secretary, Breakthrough Science Society (BSS), Bengaluru, said.

The module cites the Vedas mentioning various gods using wheeled chariots that could fly, and refers to them as "mechanical birds".

CONTINUED ON P10

A TIMELESS WEAVE FOR TRANQUIL DEVOTION.

RAMRAJ

COTTON DEVOTIONAL DHOTIS

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING TEXTILE SHOPS

WITH THIS ISSUE

THE DEATH PARADOX

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Gehlot, Pilot in 1st Cong list, Raje in BJP's

RAJESH ASHANI @ Jaipur

THE ruling Congress and the opposition BJP are treading cautiously on the lists of candidates for the November 25 polls for the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly. The Congress' list included only 33 names with 29 being sitting MLAs. Prominent among them are Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Speaker C P Joshi, Sachin Pilot, and PCC chief G S Dotasra.

The list skipped Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, both Gehlot acolytes, amid intense speculation in Congress circles that many pro-Gehlot MLAs will be benched due to the anti-incumbency factor. The upshot

IT'S BAGHEL VS NEPHEW AT PATAN

Chhattisgarh's Patan assembly seat is poised to witness an electoral clash between the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and his nephew Vijay Baghel, who is the BJP candidate. Both had contested against each other three times — in 2003, 2008, 2013. Vijay defeated Bhupesh only once in 2008. BJP manifesto committee chief Vijay is among the four MPs the opposition has fielded for the polls | P10

in the Congress list is that many MLAs who had rebelled along with Sachin Pilot in 2020 have been nominated.

The party has given a ticket to Ashok Chandra, who previously challenged Pilot. The move is seen as a Gehlot tactic to position Chandra as a Gurjar leader against Pilot.

The BJP too came out with its second list of 83 candidates,

which included former chief minister Vasundhara Raje. She will contest from the Jhalrapatan seat. Her 12 loyalists too have been accommodated in the list. Narpal Rajvi, who was denied the ticket from Jaipur in BJP's first list, has been fielded from Chittorgarh.

Among the 33 Congress candidates, both Gehlot and Speaker Joshi are aged above 70 years.

Danish Abrar is the only Muslim candidate in the first list, securing a ticket from Sawai Madhopur.

Nine women candidates figure in the initial Congress list. On the BJP side, the seat belonging to the leader of the Opposition Rajendra Rathod has been changed to Taranagar.

Another interesting inclusion is Vishwaraj Singh Mewar, a member of the former royal family of Udaipur, who recently joined BJP and will contest against Assembly Speaker C P Joshi from Nathdwara. Three candidates in the BJP's second list are above 70 years of age. The first list of BJP candidates was released on October 9.

Minor boy, friend murder Class 8 student at Nippani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A minor boy and his friend allegedly murdered a Class 8 student at Balumama Nagar in Nippani on Friday for making lewd comments against his girlfriend. The deceased has been identified as Sakeeb Sameer Pathan, 15, of Old Sambhaji Nagar in Nippani. The minor boy and his friend Zabeen, 20, also residents of Old Sambhaji Nagar, have been arrested.

According to sources, the de-

ceased and the accused minor boy were friends. On Friday, the accused boy showed his girlfriend's photo on his cell phone to Sakeeb. After seeing the photo, Sakeeb made some lewd comments. Enraged by this, the accused boy started quarrelling with him. Soon, the accused boy with the help of Zabeen allegedly murdered Sakeeb by smashing his head with a stone. A team led by SP Bhimashankar Guleed nabbed the boy and Zabeen. The boy has been sent to the juvenile home.

Swiss woman's body found, suspect nabbed

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

A woman in her 30s, possibly from Switzerland, was allegedly strangled to death with her hands and legs tied with a metal chain. Her body was found alongside a road wrapped in a black plastic bag.

A 30-year-old suspect, identified as Gurpreet, a resident of Jankapuri in west Delhi, has been arrested.

The shocker came to light on Friday when the police received a PCR call about a body lying near an MCD school wall in Tilak Nagar.

"Forensic and crime investigation teams were called on the spot. Doctors from DDU Hospital were also brought in to help us understand the circumstances leading to the death," said DCP Vichitraveer Singh.

The police registered an FIR for murder and disappearance of evidence and formed teams to crack the case quickly.

The CCTV scanning revealed a suspected vehicle moving around. The police then found out the address of a car dealer. "The accused bought the car earlier this month after making cash payment," the DCP said.

Nod for 4 RTCs to recruit 6,800 staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government on Saturday gave approval to recruit 6,500 driving and 300 technical staff in its four transport corporations.

Because of no recruitments in the past eight years, the number of vacancies went up to 13,669 employees in the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC), North

CORPORATION-WISE POSTS

KSRTC	Driver-cum-conductor	2,000
KSRTC	Technical staff	300
BMTTC	Conductor	2,500
BMTTC	Driver-cum-conductor	2,000
MTPL	Driving staff	1,619
MTPL	Conductor	300

Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and the Kalyana

Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC). Many employees retired and several quit during this period.

Though the corporations appealed to the government to allow them to recruit 13,000 driving and technical staff, approval has been given only to recruit 6,800 employees in the first phase.

The KKRTC has been allowed to recruit 1,619 drivers and 300 conductors. With this, the state will collectively get 8,719 driving and technical staff.